CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A utility access device, comprising:

a) elongated upper and lower sleeves, telescopically coupled to one another, and together having upper and lower ends, the sleeves being displacable with respect to one another so that the sleeves together have an adjustable length between the upper and lower ends;

b) an inclined upper edge, formed at the upper end of the upper sleeve, having an angle with respect to horizontal greater than 0 degrees;

c) an angled ring, rotatably disposed on the inclined upper edge of the upper sleeve;

d) the angled ring having upper and lower opposite edges forming an angle therebetween greater than 0 degrees;

e) a cover, removably disposed on the angled ring;

f) the ring being rotatable with respect to the upper sleeve between at least two different orientations, including:

i) a horizontal orientation in which the cover is horizontal; and

ii) an angled orientation in which the cover forms an angle with respect to horizontal configured to be flush with the ground surface.

2. A device in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

an enlarged portion, formed at the lower end of the lower sleeve, configured to extend over and along side a utility.

3. A device in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

a flange, circumscribing a lower end of the upper sleeve and extending laterally outwardly therefrom, configured to engage fill surrounding the sleeves and to resist movement of the upper sleeve.

4. A device in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

a shoulder, circumscribing the angled ring and abutting to the inclined upper edge of the upper sleeve.

5. A device in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

a) a socket, formed at the upper end of the upper sleeve; and

b) a protrusion, formed on the angled ring and receivable within the socket of the upper sleeve.

6. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the lower sleeve is longitudinally slidable within the upper sleeve.

7. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the upper sleeve has a horizontal upper edge, and further comprising:

an adaptor ring, disposed between the upper sleeve and the angled ring, and forming the inclined upper edge.

8. A device in accordance with claim 7, further comprising:

screw threads formed on an inner surface of the upper sleeve and an outer surface of the lower sleeve and engagable with one another.

9. A device in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a utility, disposed at the lower end of the device, selected from the group consisting of: a valve, a switch and a meter.

10. A utility access device, comprising:

a) an elongated lower sleeve having a lower end;

b) an enlarged portion, formed at the lower end of the lower sleeve, configured to extend over and along side a utility;

c) an elongated upper sleeve, telescopically engaging the lower sleeve, having an upper end;

d) a socket, formed at the upper end of the upper sleeve;

e) an inclined upper edge, formed at the upper end of the upper sleeve, having an angle with respect to horizontal greater than 0 degrees;

f) an angled ring, rotatably disposed on the inclined upper edge of the upper sleeve;

g) the angled ring having upper and lower opposite edges forming an angle therebetween greater than 0 degrees; and

h) a cover, removably disposed on the angled ring.

11. A device in accordance with claim 10, further comprising:

a flange, circumscribing a lower end of the upper sleeve and extending laterally outwardly therefrom, configured to engage fill surrounding the sleeves and to resist movement of the upper sleeve.

12. A device in accordance with claim 10, further comprising:

a shoulder, circumscribing the angled ring and abutting to the inclined upper edge of the upper sleeve.

13. A device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the lower sleeve is longitudinally slidable within the upper sleeve.

14. A device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the upper sleeve has a horizontal upper edge, and further comprising:

an adaptor ring, disposed between the upper sleeve and the angled ring, and forming the inclined upper edge.

15. A device in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:

screw threads formed on an inner surface of the upper sleeve and an outer surface of the lower sleeve and engagable with one another.

16. A device in accordance with claim 10, further comprising a utility, disposed at the lower end of the device, selected from the group consisting of: a valve, a switch and a meter.

17. A method for adjusting a utility access to a utility with respect to a ground surface, comprising the steps of:

a) positioning the utility access in a hole extending from the ground surface to the utility;

b) disposing an enlarged bottom end of the utility access over and along side the utility;

c) displacing an upper sleeve of the utility access with respect to a lower sleeve of the utility access so that the utility access extends between the utility and the ground surface, the upper and lower sleeves telescopically engaging one another; and

d) rotating an angled ring rotatably disposed on the upper sleeve until a top of the ring is substantially parallel with the ground surface, the upper sleeve having an inclined upper edge, and the angled ring having an upper edge inclined with respect to a lower edge such that rotating the angled ring with respect to the upper sleeve causes the upper edge of the ring to form a plurality of angles between approximately 0 to 20 degrees with respect to horizontal.

18. A method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the step of displacing further includes longitudinally sliding the upper sleeve with respect to the lower sleeve.

19. A method in accordance with claim 17, further comprising the step of:

rotating an adaptor ring between the upper sleeve and the angled ring.

20. A method in accordance with claim 19, wherein the step of displacing further includes rotating screw threads formed on an inner surface of the upper sleeve with respect to screw threads formed on an outer surface of the lower sleeve.

21. A method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the step of disposing an enlarged bottom end of the utility access over and along side the utility includes disposing the enlarged bottom end over a valve, a switch or a meter.